

**Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting**  
**December 2, 2023**  
**Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**  
**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

*Flint Neighborhoods United (FNU) is a coalition of neighborhood groups and residents who come together on the first Saturday of each month to share information and leverage their resources to create positive change in the Greater Flint community.*

**Announcements/Community Conversation**

● **Gun Violence Network**

- Carma Lewis invited neighborhood group members and leaders to the network's next meeting on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
- An FNU member noted that he'd recently learned from the Genesee County Suicide Prevention Coalition that 95% of suicide attempts involving a weapon are successful, and perhaps that should be part of the network's considerations

● **Mott Park Neighborhood Group**

- Holding a holiday craft show on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mott Park Community Center
- Chad also mentioned the Community Foundation of Greater Flint will be hosting a celebration at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for all 2023 grant recipients

● **North Flint Neighborhood Action Council**

- The "Building Better Block Clubs" event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024 at the Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village (SBEV)
- Additionally, there is a social club available for special needs adults (18+) in Genesee County provided through Genesee Health System. To register call 810-785-9892 or visit [www.genhs.org/thesocialclub](http://www.genhs.org/thesocialclub).

● **Environmental Transformation Movement**

- Pushing for more trainings on how to engage in air permitting public engagement process effectively in response to the Ajax Asphalt Plant and other planned expansions of industrial companies in the north Flint area
- Next session: Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library with
  - Will cover basics of air permits, how the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) makes permitting decisions, and interactive discussion on how to prepare comments that make a difference
  - To register: <https://bit.ly/3QzVGae>

● **Michigan State University**

- Hosting a "MI Healthy Climate" input session on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration recommended. For more information or to register [click here](#).
  - Chris noted that the National Arbor Day Foundation might be a good partner for the plan and provide trees to the effort

- College of Human Medicine is working on a building expansion, which is why there is fencing in up around part of the parking lot shared with the Flint Farmers' Market. The expansion will be three stories and about 40,000 square feet.
  - Lisa noted she was proud of MSU, as the campus has been including community members in its expansion hiring as well. She offered that if folks are interested in being part of those public input sessions they can email her at [pasbjer4@msu.edu](mailto:pasbjer4@msu.edu).
- **Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**
  - A reminder to make sure that when you are booking your meetings at the library, if you want the event to be visible to the public, you are letting Jenny (or whomever is helping make that reservation for you on FPL's end) that you want it to be public instead of private on the library's calendar.
  - FPL is now seeking about April/May/June program partnerships, so if your organization or neighborhood group may want to partner on an event, let Eileen know: [ebutton@fpl.info](mailto:ebutton@fpl.info)
  - The library will be hosting a MLK Day event on Jan. 15, 2024 at 2 p.m.
    - Shani Womack will emcee, Community Roots will be onsite, and Dr. Tonya Bailey will be delivering the keynote address
- **Keep Genesee County Beautiful**
  - Officially moving into the building that also houses the Flint River Watershed Coalition (630 W. Kearsley)
  - There are 12 parks in Flint still in need of park adopters. If interested, please contact Brandon Denler at [bdenler@gcparks.org](mailto:bdenler@gcparks.org).
  - City Council recently approved ~\$1.3 million in ARPA funding for parks. The funding will go toward bollard installation to stop cars from driving through parks, parking lot improvements at five parks, and other upgrades.
- **Flint Our Community Our Voice**
  - New edition is out and will be distributed, it includes lots of upcoming holiday event information
  - Send flyers/info for your neighborhood or organization's events/meetings to Chris Frye ([cfrye31@comcast.net](mailto:cfrye31@comcast.net)). Also, please double check that your neighborhood group's information is accurate and up to date (meeting time, location, contact information, etc.) in the paper and on [FNU's website](#). Contact Chris if adjustments are needed.
- **Michigan State Police**
  - Trooper Steve Kramer gave update ([KramerS1@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerS1@michigan.gov))
  - MSP participated in many trunk-or-treats in the Flint area, is working with Salvation Army on toy drive and "Shop with Heroes" events are also upcoming.
  - Trooper Amy Belanger will be in the Swartz Creek holiday parade on Dec. 2, which kicks off at 6 p.m.
  - MSP will also be participating in the "Wreaths Across America" event on Dec. 16 at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. The event involves placing wreaths on the graves of veterans and Trooper Belanger encouraged attendance.
- **Communities First, Inc.**

- The next film showing in CFI's ongoing African American Film Festival series will be Black Barbie on Dec. 14. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. with the movie to follow. The event is free.
- CFI will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Grand on University later this month. The ceremony date has not been finalized, but an announcement will be shared once it is.
- CFI will be sending around a survey in the hopes of learning more about neighborhood needs and determine ways the organization may help support those efforts.
- Joel separately noted that the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) program, which was designed to help homeowners impacted by COVID with delinquent payments, will stop accepting applications on Friday, Dec. 8 at 11:59 p.m. More information and the application for assistance can be [found here](#).
- **Flint Residents for Stronger Neighborhoods**
  - FRSN is an urbanist group that advocates for policies and practices that support pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, multi-modal transportation options (like bikes and scooters), and making Flint a welcoming and accessible place for all.
  - The group's next meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

**Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Alexandria Riley, Sales Director**

- One of the largest issues in the nation, and in Flint, is access to quality, affordable housing
- 84% of GC Land Bank sales go toward homeownership
  - Goal is to have homes up to code within a year, but it is known that this is sometimes not realistic
- While there was a large backlog in recent history, vacant lot sales should now be turned around within 30-45 days at this point
- The GCLBA has multiple sales programs, including the Very Interesting Property (VIP) program, Redevelopment Ready, and Featured Homes program
  - The Featured Homes program allows purchaser to gain ownership through land contract (over 5 years)
    - Interested buyers must see property, in-person, during an open house (though GCLBA is now working on establishing private showing options)
    - Buyer needs to have taken a HUD-certified homeownership and financial literacy course
    - What needs to be provided by buyer otherwise: 60 days of income, can't have outstanding foreclosure or taxes/delinquencies on other properties in Genesee County
      - Land Bank requires \$1k or 10% down, whichever is more
    - Estimated 74% success rate of this program
- Also discussed the recent purchase of bundled, occupied properties in Flint and Genesee County that would've otherwise been transferred to the Land Bank; should be

noted the Land Bank did not have anything to do with this sale – it is a state-level requirement that those homes go to auction

- FNU members noted that there is an importance to being realistic about the costs that add up between permitting and repair needs to a Land Bank home
  - Riley said that the Land Bank's role is a balancing act: they want to help people toward homeownership but they also need to make sure those same folks can be responsible in their purchase and repair process